

# DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THESE FEDERAL BENEFITS FOR VETERANS?



Department of  
Veterans Affairs

VA Benefits  
Toll-Free **HOTLINE**  
**1-800-827-1000**  
or visit us on the web  
at **www.va.gov**

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## HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM ELIGIBLE FOR THESE BENEFITS?

Eligibility for most VA benefits is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions. However, some military personnel may be eligible for certain VA benefits while on active duty when they have completed:

- 90 Days of Service During Wartime and/or Conflict Periods,
- Or Two Years of Military Service Since 1980,
- Or 181 Days During Peacetime.

## HOW DO I GET INTO THE VA SYSTEM?

If you are seeking VA benefits for the first time after release from active duty, you must send a copy of your military discharge (DD form 214, or other discharge document) with your application for benefits. You can file your application and discharge paper with any VA regional office. When leaving the military, Transition Assistance Programs can help with your transition into civilian life.

## 8 BURIAL

Burial benefits in a VA National Cemetery include the gravesite, the headstone or marker, opening and closing of the grave, and maintenance of the grounds.

- National Cemeteries Maintained as National Shrines
- Symbolic Expressions of Remembrance (Headstones and Markers)
- Presidential Memorial Certificates
- Burial Flags
- Burial of Veterans and Eligible Family members in a VA National Cemetery

## 7 FAMILY AND SURVIVOR BENEFITS

Some family members of disabled or deceased veterans are eligible for certain benefits.

- Educational Benefits
- Home Loan Guaranty for Surviving Spouse
- Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC)
- DIC Payments to Surviving Spouse
- DIC Payments to Parents and Children
- Spina Bifida Benefits
- Medical Care for Family and Survivors (CHAMPVA)
- Death Pension
- Burial of Spouse and Eligible Family Members

## B WHO TO CONTACT

For health emergencies, call 911

General Benefits	
VA Hotline (disability, compensation, pension, home loan, education, burial, vocational rehabilitation, survivor, and insurance benefits)	1-800-827-1000
Education and Training	1-888-442-4551
Headstones and Markers	1-800-697-6947
Life Insurance	1-800-669-8477
Veterans Benefits in Canada (other than health care)	1-802-296-5177*
Health Care Benefits	
Veterans Health Care	1-877-222-VETS
Veterans Health Care in Canada	1-802-296-6379*
Veterans Health Care in Philippines	011-632-833-4566*
Veterans Health Care in All Other Countries	1-303-331-7590*
Mammography Helpline	1-888-492-7844
CHAMPVA (medical care for dependents and osurvivors f veterans)	1-800-733-8387
Spina Bifida	1-800-733-8387
Health Eligibility Center (how to do a Means Test for health care eligibility)	1-800-929-8387
Miscellaneous	
Debt Management Center (Information about debts owed to VA)	1-800-827-0648
Gulf War Veterans Helpline	1-800-PGW-VETS
Telecommunication Device for the Deaf (TDD)	1-800-829-4833

\* Non-toll-free numbers.

For further assistance or information  
available at this facility, please contact:

## 6 HEALTH CARE

Most veterans must apply for enrollment in order to receive health care benefits. Veterans may apply at any time. Once enrolled, veterans are eligible for a comprehensive benefits package of inpatient and outpatient services that include:

- Primary and Specialty Care
- Preventive Medicine Services
- Surgery
- Emergency Care
- Drugs and Pharmaceuticals
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment
- Nursing Homes/Long-Term Care
- Home Health Care
- Respite and Hospice Care
- Homeless Veterans Programs
- Vet Centers
- Sexual Trauma Counseling and Treatment
- Women's Veterans Health Programs
- 1-877-222-VETS

Service-connected veterans are eligible for treatment of their service-connected disability even if they have not enrolled.

## 1 EDUCATION

The VA pays monthly benefits to eligible veterans, dependents, reservists, and service members. These monthly education benefits can help you finance your education. You can use your education benefits for:

- Undergraduate or Graduate Training at a College or University
  - Technical/Vocational Training
  - On-the-Job/Apprenticeship Training
  - Correspondence and Flight Training
- You might also qualify for work-study allowance.

## 2 LIFE INSURANCE

If you are in the military or recently separated from the military, you may be eligible for life insurance. Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) is open to active-duty members and reservists of the uniformed services. Veterans' Group Life Insurance (VGLI) is available to those released from active duty and to separated reservists. VGLI is renewable 5-year term coverage. You can convert your SGLI to VGLI or to a commercial policy. You must complete conversions for "no health questions asked" within 120 days of separation from either active duty or the reserves. However, you have 16 months from the date of separation from service to make "good health" conversions.

## 3 HOMES

With a VA guaranty, the lender is protected against loss up to the amount of the guaranty if the borrower fails to repay the loan. VA loan guaranties are made to service members, veterans, reservists, and unmarried surviving spouses to buy a home, town house, manufactured home, lot, or certain types of condominiums. VA also guarantees loans for building, repairing, and improving homes. If you already have a mortgage, VA may be able to help you refinance your loan at a lower interest rate.

- No Down Payment Required for Most Home Loans.
- Specially Adapted Housing Grants for Severely Disabled Veterans.

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## OTHER FEDERAL AND STATE VETERANS BENEFITS AND SERVICES

Veterans may be eligible for other benefits.

- State Veterans Homes
- Homeless Veterans Programs
- Civil Service Preference
- Overseas Benefits
- State Benefits (may vary by state)
  - Free Camping Privileges
  - Free Hunting/Fishing Licenses
  - Free Disabled Veterans Automobile License Plates
  - Free Boat Trailer Registration Fees and Taxes
  - Free Handicapped Parking Card
  - Free Watercraft Registration
  - Free Tuition for Family Members for Some State Colleges and Universities

For benefits in your state, see [www.nasva.com](http://www.nasva.com)

## 5 VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The VA's Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment program assists veterans with service-connected disabilities by offering them services and assistance to help them prepare for, find, and keep suitable employment.

- Employment Assistance
- Transition Assistance Programs
- Vocational-Educational/ Career Counseling
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Small Business Administration
- Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization

## 4 DISABILITY COMPENSATION AND PENSION

You may be eligible for compensation for injuries or illnesses you suffer as a result of active duty or for any disabilities you had before service that were made worse because of your active duty. If you qualify for compensation, you may be entitled to an additional allowance for your family members.

You may also be eligible for a pension if you are a wartime veteran with limited income and you are no longer able to work.

- Disability Compensation
- Special Programs Include:
  - Prisoners of War
  - Agent Orange and Other Herbicides
  - Veterans Exposed to Radiation
  - Gulf War-Related Conditions
  - Allowances for Family Members
- Disability Pension
- Other Disability Benefits
  - Aid and Attendance
  - Clothing Allowance
  - Automobile Assistance

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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3/24/00 Check your local VA office for any changes.

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